

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

First-year Experience: Foreign Languages and Literatures (FLL 160–74)
Fall 2009
Friday 12.00 – 12.50 pm
HB 435

John K. Moore, Jr., PhD

Office Hours: By advance appointment only (consult directly via e-mail for availability)

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Course Description

First Year Experience (FYE) courses are the gateway to undergraduate education at UAB. FYE courses improve student retention by helping to bridge the gap between high school experiences and university expectations and enhance successful progress towards graduation by establishing the foundations for academic achievement and holistic development. Every UAB freshman should share a common foundation for learning, whatever their majors or professional goals are. This particular FYE course dovetails with the vision and mission of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Course Goals/Objectives

The goals of the First Year Experience course are to orient students to the academic community and academic success; to connect students with their School in UAB, its support services and departments; and to connect students with other students and faculty. Simultaneously, the student explores career, academic goals and life-long learning goals. In this FYE, this exploration is done in the context of specific topics related to the study of foreign languages and literatures, including the following:

1. What can foreign languages, literatures and cultures offer to your worldview?
2. Careers in foreign languages.
3. What we know about language acquisition.
4. Translation and interpretation.
5. Breaking down foreign cultural constructs and stereotypes.

This course additionally will include coverage of the following topics:

1. Structure & mission of UAB; language and culture of higher education
2. Faculty expectations and student responsibilities
3. Academic policies, including the Academic Honor Code
4. Academic advising & career planning
5. Academic survival skills (e.g., regular attendance, understanding the syllabus, reading and thinking critically, note-taking, test-taking, learning styles)

6. Time management
7. Financial management
8. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle (e.g., stress management, nutrition, recreation, drug & alcohol awareness; personal safety)
9. University resources, including the libraries
10. Campus involvement opportunities (e.g., social activities, clubs and organizations, cultural events) that promote learning outside the classroom

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of an FYE course, students should be able to

1. Assume responsibility for their own educational progress by
 - a. Employing basic academic survival skills
 - b. Planning their curriculum intentionally
 - c. Being able to articulate the purpose and value of the core curriculum
 - d. Knowing about campus policies and resources
 - e. Exercising personal and academic integrity
 - f. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle
 - g. Managing financial resources effectively
2. Demonstrate social integration and engagement by
 - a. Establishing community-building bonds with peers, faculty, and students
 - b. Participating actively in campus life
 - c. Knowing the Shared Vision for a UAB graduate
 - d. Drawing connections between classroom experiences and the expanding communities of which they are a part

Students additionally will articulate the connection of these objectives to the mission and vision of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Required Readings

FYE Resource Pages for Students: www.uab.edu/fyeresources

Select readings from *Your College Experience: Strategies for Success*, by John N. Garner et al. (to be provided via Bb Vista)

Select readings and/or audio tracks from *The 5-minute Linguist: Talkin' about Talk*:
<http://www.cofc.edu/linguist/archives/>

Additional Student Resources

- Jung Typology Test (a personality indicator):
<http://humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>

Cultural Activities Requirement

Each student is expected to participate in at least 2 departmentally sponsored cultural activities. A full range of offerings for the semester can be viewed by clicking on the “Event Calendar” link the Department’s Web page (www.uab.edu/foreignlang).

Evaluation

Cultural activities participation (2 total)	5%
Advising assignments	20%
Class Participation (includes attendance, oral production in groups, et cetera)	25%
Presentations	25%
<u>Preparation (includes completion of readings and all other assignments)</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A = 100 – 90; **B** = 89 – 80; **C** = 79 – 70; **D** = 69 – 60; **F** = 59 - 0

Attendance Policy

- 2 % from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above 1. More than 3 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC “F”.
- Absences—excused or not—will count against a student’s class participation grade and may also cause points to be deducted from the final grade.
- The dates of assignments, tests, presentations and paper deadlines will be strictly enforced.
- Any absence due to illness can only be excused with the appropriate medical documentation.

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class and to actively contribute to class discussions in groups and as a full class.

Advising

The advising assignments will be given and graded by me.

Research Presentations

Students will share two presentations with their peers: one on preferred study abroad options; the other on foreign language and heritage communities in Birmingham and Alabama.

Preparation

This may take on a variety of forms, and includes carefully preparing each homework assignment and out-of-class readings.

Class Schedule¹

Date	Content ²
8.21	General introduction. FLMS orientation.
8.28	Structure & mission of UAB and DFLL; language and culture of higher education. Faculty expectations and student responsibilities. Academic advising.
9.4	Library Orientation with Heather Martin (in our regular classroom). University resources, including the libraries. Academic policies, including the Academic Honor Code.
9.11	Visit from Mr. Josh Carter: study abroad options; parable and cultural simulation. [Prof. Moore at Leadership Conference.]
9.18	NOTE: Class meets at Campus Recreation Center! Maintaining a healthy lifestyle (e.g., stress management, nutrition, recreation, drug & alcohol awareness; personal safety). Team-building exercises, tour of Campus Recreation Center.
9.25	NOTE: Class meets in HB 312! Special luncheon, talk by Visiting Jemison Lecturer George Greenia (lasts until 2 pm)
10.2	Academic survival skills (e.g., regular attendance, understanding the syllabus, reading and thinking critically, note-taking, test-taking, learning styles). Time management. Visit from Dr. Krista Chambless on language acquisition.
10.9	Visit from Career Services: Class on career exploration (meet in classroom; then proceed to FLMS) [Prof. Moore at Leadership Conference.]
10.16	Fall Break: No Class
10.23	Careers in Foreign Languages. Visit from Richard Newton, Esquire. Academic advising.
10.30	Student presentations on foreign and heritage language communities in Birmingham and Alabama.
11.6	Financial management. Visit from Prof. Belita Faki on translation and interpretation.
11.13	Campus involvement opportunities (e.g., social activities, clubs and organizations, cultural events) that promote learning outside the classroom. [Prof. Moore at leadership conference]
11.20	Student presentations on preferred study abroad options; Conclusion of course.

¹ The dates of the material to be covered and assigned are subject to change as the professor deems necessary.

² Specific assignments to be given throughout the semester.

General Information

Department Office
Location: HB 407
Phone: 205-934-4652
E-mail: foreignlangs@uab.edu
Web: <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang>

Foreign Language Media Services
Location: HB 412
Phone: 205-934-6035
Web: <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/flms/flmshome.html>

UAB ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

UAB expects all students to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Unacceptable behaviors such as abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication and misrepresentation are serious violations of the UAB Academic Honor Code and are punishable by a range of penalties. For more information, please visit the UAB web site at <http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-Catalog2004-2006/>

UAB DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities (such as visual, hearing, mobility, learning, psychiatric, attention-deficit or other) who need course accommodations are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with Disability Support Services, 516 Hill University Center or 934-4205, and provide an accommodation request letter before receiving academic adjustments.

UAB is committed to making its academic programs and services accessible to students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination based on their disability, as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information, please visit the UAB web site at <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/students/services/disability-support/>

UAB EARLY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)

EAS is designed to help students be more successful academically at UAB. If you receive an email with EAS in the title, please open it, read it and take advantage of the support that UAB offers to all students. UAB is committed to ensuring that students receive academic support and are aware of the resources available that will help assist them in successfully completing their degree program.